

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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R 131831Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5151

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, FR, EC

SUBJ: FRENCH ECONOMIC EXPANSION PROGRAM: THE CHIRAC
LETTER

REFS: A. PARIS 27093 B. STATE 258359 C. USEC 9946

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH OFFICIALS AT MFA AND PM'S OFFICE
HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF US CONCERNS ABOUT CHIRAC'S CIRCULAR
LETTER OF JULY 31. FRENCH HAVE EMPHASIZED SHORT-TERM
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ASPECTS OF LETTER, BUT HAVE GIVEN US NO REASON TO

BELIEVE IT WILL BE RECALLED. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW MATTER AND HOPES ITS DEMARCHES WILL HAVE DETERRENT EFFECT ON FUTURE RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS.

2. US CONCERN OVER PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S CIRCULAR LETTER OF JULY 31, 1975 (REF B) WAS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF QUAI ECONOMIC DESK OFFICER SAZARIN ON NOV 7 BY EMBOFF WHO LEFT AIDE-MEMOIRE BASED ON RE B. SAZARIN PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF LETTER BUT PROMISED TO CONVEY OUR CONCERN AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL. HE EXPRESSED DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WOULD BE WRITTEN RESPONSE.

3. MINECON FOLLOWED UP WITH DELIVERY OF COPY OF SAME AIDE-MEMOIRE TO FRANCOIS HEILBRONNER IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ON NOV 10. HEILBRONNER WAS NOT PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH CHIRAC'S JULY 31 LETTER BUT COMMENTED THAT DATES (CHIRAC REQUESTED REPLY BY AUG 6) CLEARLY INDICATED IT WAS PART OF CRASH PROGRAM MOUNTED AT THAT TIME TO GENERATE SHORT TERM ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. HE SPECULATED THAT LANGUAGE OF LETTER, I.E., PROCUREMENT "SHOULD ENTAIL NO ORDERS FOR IMPORTED MATERIAL", COULD BE READ TO MEAN THAT FOREIGN GOODS ALREADY IN INVENTORY COULD BE SUPPLIED. IN LONGER TERM HEILBRONNER SAID HE KNEW OF NO IMPEDIMENT TO, OR POLICY AGAINST, GOF UTILIZATION OF IMPORTED MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT. GOF, HE ADDED, WAS SO ORGANIZED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO GET AROUND BASIC THRUST IN FRENCH POLICY FAVORING FREE TRADE. HEILBRONNER PROMISED TO LET US KNOW IF HE LEARNED ANYTHING ON REAL COMMERCIAL IMPACT OF CHIRAC LETTER.

4. COMMENT: WE CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY WE WILL HEAR MUCH MORE FROM GOF ABOUT THIS AUGUST ACTION, WHICH SEEMED TO BE IN NATURE OF END-OF-FY PROCUREMENT. THEIR NEW-FOUND AWARENESS, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF AND CONCERNED ABOUT SUCH INTERNAL MEMOS MAY DISCOURAGE FURTHER RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES IN GOF PROCUREMENT SYSTEM.
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5. FOR USEC: RE PARA 5, REF C, WE WILL PASS TO YOU ANY INFO WE OBTAIN CONCERNING APPROACH OF FRENCH FEDERATION OF COMPUTER IMPORTERS TO EC AUTHORITIES.
RUSH

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